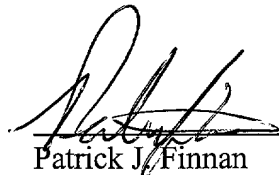


Applicant hereby claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a) from German Patent Application
No. 100 16 469.2-31, filed April 1, 2000.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees required for the above-
identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,



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